

Appl. No. 10/602,495
Corrected Preliminary Amendment submitted with Response to Restriction dated: November 10, 2005
In Reply To Office Action dated: September 30, 2005 & Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment 37CFR1.121
Facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-8300

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1-44 (canceled)

Claim 45 (previously presented): A method comprising:

supporting a human on a support surface, wherein the support surface has a seat portion and a back portion; and

cleaning an anal region of the human by accessing the anal region, from behind the human and behind the back portion of the support surface, through an aperture in the support surface, wherein the aperture provides posterior access to the human and the aperture eliminates pressure on a portion of the human's buttocks between a left cheek and a right cheek.

Claim 46 (currently amended): A method comprising:

supporting a human on a support surface, wherein the support surface has a seat portion and a back portion; and

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inspecting an area of the human selected from the group consisting of a lower spinal region of the human's anatomy and an anal region by accessing, from behind the human and behind the back portion of the support surface, a ~~posterior region~~ the area of the human through an aperture in the support surface.

Claim 47 (original): The method of claim 46, further comprising:

administering medical services to the human through the aperture in the support surface.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The method of claim 47, wherein during the administering medical services someone other than the human treats a decubitus ulcer on the human.

Claim 49 (previously presented): The method of claim 45, further comprising:

administering medical services to the human through the aperture in the support surface.

Claim 50 (previously presented): The method of claim 49, wherein during the administering medical services someone other than the human treats a decubitus ulcer on the human.

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Claim 51 (previously presented): The method of claim 46, further comprising:

capturing a view of the human through the aperture, wherein the view is captured in the form of an electronic image and the view is capable of being used during the inspecting.

Claim 52 (previously presented): The method of claim 51, wherein the electronic image is transmitted wirelessly to a display device.

Claim 53 (previously presented): The method of claim 51, wherein someone other than the human performs the inspecting.

Claims 54-59 (canceled)

Claim 60 (currently amended): A method comprising:

providing posterior access to a sacral region of a human's anatomy, through an aperture in ~~the~~ a support surface, ~~when the human's legs and back are supported on the support surface having a seat portion and a back portion, the access is from behind the support surface and the aperture relieves pressure on a portion of the human's anatomy, the portion includes the sacral region and an area between a left cheek and a right cheek of the buttocks below the human's spine.~~

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Claim 61 (previously presented): The method of claim 60, further comprising:
eliminating pressure on the sacral region of the human's anatomy.

Claim 62 (previously presented): The method of claim 60, further comprising:
providing posterior access to a lower spinal region of the human's
anatomy.

Claim 63 (previously presented): The method of claim 62, further comprising:
eliminating pressure on the lower spinal region of the human's anatomy.

Claim 64 (previously presented): The method of claim 60, further comprising:
utilizing a privacy panel to obstruct a view of the human supported on the
support surface, wherein the privacy panel is releasably coupled with the support
surface.

Claim 65 (previously presented): The method of claim 60, wherein a sloped
portion of the support surface is used to support the human's legs.

Claim 66 (previously presented): The method of claim 60, wherein the support
surface includes arm rests that are sloped, such that the human's hand on an
arm can be at a different elevation than the human's elbow on the arm.

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Claim 67 (previously presented): The method of claim 60, wherein a portion of the support surface that supports the human's legs is flexibly coupled to a portion of the support surface that supports the human's back.

Claims 68-74 (canceled)

Claim 75 (previously presented): An apparatus comprising:

a support surface having a seat portion and a back portion, wherein the seat portion and the back portion form a non-planar surface, the seat portion having an aperture opening toward the back portion so that when a human is supported on the support surface the human's anus is positioned over the aperture, and the aperture provides access, from behind the human and behind the back portion of the support surface, to a lower spinal region of the human's anatomy.

Claim 76 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 75, wherein the back portion having an aperture that merges with the aperture in the seat portion.

Claim 77 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 75, further comprising:
means for viewing to view a portion of the human visible through the aperture.

Claim 78 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 75, further comprising:

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means for privacy to limit a view of the human.

Claim 79 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 75, further comprising:

means for providing mobility to the support surface.

Claim 80 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 75, wherein the seat portion is sloped to position the human's buttocks lower than the human's knees when the human is supported on the support surface.

Claim 81 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 75, further comprising:

means for supporting the human's arms.

Claim 82 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 75, further comprising:

an armrest coupled with the support surface.

Claim 83 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 83, wherein the armrest is sloped.

Claim 84 (previously presented): An apparatus comprising:

a seat portion having a first aperture; and

a back portion having a second aperture, wherein the seat portion and the back portion form a non-planar support surface to support a human, and the first

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aperture and the second aperture form a composite aperture in the support surface, so that the human's anus is proximate to the composite aperture, and the composite aperture provides access, from behind the human and behind the back portion of the support surface, to a lower spinal region of the human's anatomy.

Claim 85 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 84, further comprising:
means for viewing to view a portion of the human visible through the aperture.

Claim 86 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 84, further comprising:
means for privacy to limit a view of the human.

Claim 87 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 84, further comprising:
means for providing mobility to the support surface.

Claim 88 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 84, wherein the seat portion is sloped to position the human's buttocks lower than the human's knees when the human is supported on the support surface.

Claim 89 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 84, further comprising:
means for supporting the human's arms.

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Claim 90 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 84, further comprising:

an armrest coupled with the support surface.

Claim 91 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 90, wherein the armrest
is sloped.

Claim 92 (previously presented): A support surface for a human comprising:

a back portion;

a seat portion having an aperture opening toward the back portion; and

a frame coupling the seat portion with the back portion, so that when the
human is supported on the support surface, the human's anus is proximate to the
aperture, and the aperture provides access, from behind the human and behind
the back portion of the support surface, to a lower spinal region of the human's
anatomy.

Claim 93 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 92, wherein the back
portion having an aperture that merges with the aperture in the seat portion.

Claim 94 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 92, further comprising:

means for viewing to view a portion of the human visible through the
aperture.

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Claim 95 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 92, further comprising:
means for privacy to limit a view of the human.

Claim 96 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 92, further comprising:
means for providing mobility to the support surface.

Claim 97 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 92, wherein the seat
portion is sloped to position the human's buttocks lower than the human's knees
when the human is supported on the support surface.

Claim 98 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 92, further comprising:
means for supporting the human's arms.

Claim 99 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 92, further comprising:
an armrest coupled with the support surface.

Claim 100 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 99, wherein the armrest
is sloped.

Claim 101 (previously presented): A support surface for a human comprising:
a first portion having an aperture; and

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a second portion flexibly coupled with the first portion, wherein the aperture extends toward the second portion and an angle between the first portion and the second portion is adjustable so that when the human is supported on the support surface the human's anus is proximate to the aperture, and the aperture provides access, from behind the human and behind the back portion of the support surface, to a lower spinal region of the human's anatomy.

Claim 102 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 101, the second portion having an aperture that merges with the aperture in the first portion.

Claim 103 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 101, further comprising:
means for viewing to view a portion of the human visible through the aperture.

Claim 104 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 101, further comprising:
means for privacy to limit a view of the human.

Claim 105 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 101, further comprising:
means for providing mobility to the support surface.

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Claim 106 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 101, wherein the first portion is sloped to position the human's buttocks lower than the human's knees when the human is supported on the support surface.

Claim 107 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 101, further comprising:
means for supporting the human's arms.

Claim 108 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 101, further comprising:
an armrest coupled with the support surface.

Claim 109 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 108, wherein the armrest is sloped.

Claim 110 (previously presented): A support surface for a human comprising:
a back portion having an aperture;
a seat portion having an aperture opening toward and merging with the aperture in the back portion to form a composite aperture wherein the human's anus is to be positioned proximate to the composite aperture;
a frame coupling the seat portion with the back portion;
means for viewing to facilitate viewing a portion of the human; and
means for privacy to limit a view of the human.

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Claim 111 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 110, further comprising:

means for providing mobility to the support surface.

Claim 112 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 110, wherein the seat
portion is sloped to position the human's buttocks lower than the human's knees
when the human is supported on the support surface.

Claim 113 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 110, further comprising:

an arm rest having a front end and a back end, the front end configured
higher than the back end.